

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**CUSTOMER NO. 22927**

Applicants: Walker et al.  
Application No.: 09/223,901  
Filed: December 31, 1998  
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ENCOURAGING COMPETITIVE  
PARTICIPATION IN AN AUCTION  
Attorney Docket No. 98-084  
Confirmation No. 4361  
Examiner: Akiba K. ROBINSON -BOYCE  
Group Art Unit: 3628

**RESPONSE**  
**to the Non-final Office Action mailed January 17, 2008**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Examiner:

In response to the Non-final Office Action mailed January 17, 2008, part of Paper No. / Mail Date 20080102 (hereinafter the "Office Action"), please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

This document is being filed by the Applicants' representative on behalf of the present Applicants for patent. Accordingly, references to "we", "us" "our" and the like all indicate the present Applicants for patent. References to "you", "your" and the like all indicate the present Examiner.